

tions or notes from local observers, to this list, and especially on the ducks. My thanks are due to Mr. J. Claire Wood and Alec Blaine, Jr., of Detroit, for many valuable records.

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## A FEW ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE FLICKER.

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It has been suggested that I bring together the additional notes received subsequent to the publication of our coöperative investigation of the Flicker.

In connection with two obscure vernacular names, Mr. Ernest Ingersoll pertinently remarks: If *Woodquoi* really exists, it is probably allied to the English *Woodquest* (or *'queest*), for the Dove (*Columba palumba*), the root meaning of which appears to be the word "complainer." "*Wood-wall*," according to Skeat, is ancient *Wooarwale*, and derived from old Dutch, meaning "a yellow bird."

Under the head of migration, some valuable notes relative to the retrograde movements of the bird, are contributed by Dr. Walter W. Mavis. In south New Jersey, in the region of the Upper Delaware Bay, which runs due south, some time in October of every year the migrating Flickers are found flying north just previous to and during a northwest storm. At this time the wind is generally high and the birds fly against it. This peculiarity of flight affects a large territory extending inland from the east shore of the bay some fifteen or twenty miles. While the birds prefer to breast a wind, it is also probable that they are reluctant to cross the lower part of the bay during such a storm which would tend to drive them seaward, rather preferring to return northward to the more narrow river where they could cross in comparative safety.

Apropos to its enemies, I have to add another, my favor-

ite: the Broad-winged Hawk—with the somewhat modifying term—sometimes. A nest of lusty young hawks examined in July, '01, contained the primaries and rectrices of one or two young Flickers, probably just out of the nest. Two dried pellets which had been disgorged contained the hair, skin, and jaw of a woodmouse, scapular and interscapular feathers of a young Flicker, and feathers of a young Wood Thrush. From this evidence I conclude that young birds, at least, are occasionally killed by this almost wholly beneficial *Butco*. To the above Mr. Benj. T. Gault adds the Blacksnake—one having been killed and cut open by a farmer's lad at a place he was stopping at in Reynolds county, Missouri, contained the body of one of these woodpeckers.

The question as to whether the adults do or do not remove the excrement of the young, has not been settled. It is probable that they do however, for a time, depending more or less upon the individual. I have found some nests containing young well feathered, which were far from cleanly; others were as clean as could be. A nest nine feet up in a butternut stub containing four young about two weeks old, was examined last June 19th, at 9 p.m., with the following results: The parent was not covering the young. Temperature of interior noticeably warmer; it seemed to me to be at blood heat. The young in two layers but almost equally strong and advanced, if I may except one of the topmost which was able to utter a squeal and jump out and flutter away to the ground; the others had uttered the usual feeding clatter drowsily, but became silent almost immediately and allowed me to take them out one by one by wing or beak. The birds were perfectly clean, while the bottom of the nest was somewhat foul. The aggregate contents of the stomachs of these four young is something wonderful: 7 cherry stones (cultivated), 1 large larva, 1 worm, fragments of many beetles, several green beetles (whole), pieces of grass, weed stems, and stubble, 2 bits of oyster shell, numbers of tiny bits of stone (gravel), and about 1500 ants—red and black, adult and larvæ. All four possess the black

malar stripe, mixed with the throat color in two, and the ivory white tip of the upper mandible. One, a female with the mixed malar stripe, altogether lacks the red nuchal crescent. I did not discover the oddity in time to have secured the parent birds. If I had done so and one or the other had exhibited some additional characteristic of the Red-shafted Flicker, it would have been considered excellent proof of former hybridism. Such being not the case, and leaving out the small *auratus* group, the plain top of the head might almost be said to be one of the common characters of the genus; and as hard to account for in this instance as the unique specimen of the same species, with mandibles crossed, in the collection of Mr. L. S. Foster, of New York City.

Under the head of migration on pages 17 and 18 of the report, "N. Brighton" should read North Bridgton. The former is situated in northeastern Maine, while the place from which Mr. J. C. Mead reports lies in the southwestern section.

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### THE NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD CENSUS.

Our first attempt to begin the year with a census of the birds in many different places, has resulted fairly well. While the number of reports is not great a genuine interest in this winter study is manifest. Everybody should know that at no time of year are birds wholly absent in any part of the United States where water is obtainable. The possibility of making a pretty accurate census of the birds in winter enables us to arrive at a pretty accurate estimate of the actual value of birds as destroyers of noxious animals and weeds. This is practical work.

With this good beginning let us look forward to more activity during the winter months next time.